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**General debate**

## Letter dated 30 September 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to transmit herewith the written statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by Samuel Santos López, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua, in the general debate, on 29 September 2009 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could arrange to have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 8.

(*Signed*) John **Sawers**

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## Annex to the letter dated 30 September 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

## Statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua in the general debate on 29 September 2009

The United Kingdom has no doubt about its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands.

The British Government attaches great importance to the principle of self-determination as set out in Article 1.2 of the Charter of the United Nations and article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. That principle underlies our position on the Falkland Islands.

The democratically elected representatives of the Falkland Islands once again expressed their own views clearly when they visited the United Nations for this year's debate in the Committee of 24.

They asked the Committee to recognize that they, like any other people, were entitled to exercise the right of self-determination. They reiterated that the people of the Falkland Islands did not wish for any change in the status of the Islands.

There can be no negotiations on the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands unless and until such time as the islanders so wish.